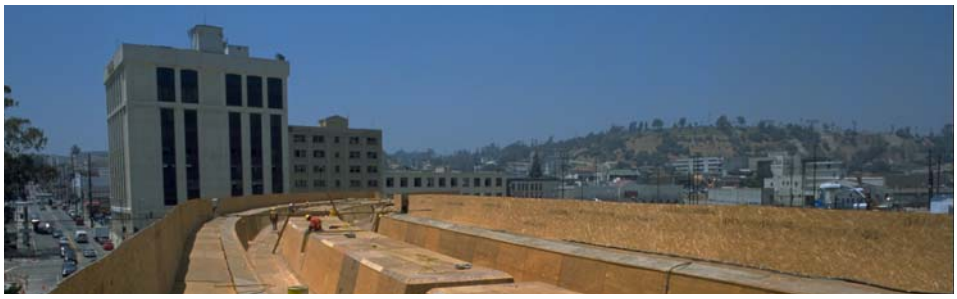
CORRIDOR ALIGNMENT URBAN DESIGN AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH SERVICES



PASADENA BLUE LINE LRT

Pasadena, California

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA)

2005

Project Type: Urban Light Rail Transit (LRT)

PURPOSE

The new 13.6-mile extension of the Blue Line will run from Union Station in downtown Los Angeles into Pasadena, serving the communities of Chinatown, Highland Park, and South Pasadena along the way.

DESCRIPTION

The Pasadena Blue Line is a light rail transit project of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Agency (MTA). The Engineering Management Consultant (EMC) retained HNTB to coordinate project conceptual design issues and resolution for Marmion Way, including right-of-way, streetscape, station design, private property interface and private property improvements/changes. HNTB's contract on the Pasadena Blue Line was expanded to include schematic design for the Marmion Way Corridor portion of the 13.7-mile project. HNTB managed urban design, civil engineering, public involvement, and rail operations programming tasks for both the transitway and overall corridor.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The urban designer was responsible for coordinating public design workshops for the entire Pasadena Blue Line LRT Corridor, which involved three workshops. HNTB's scope of work included preparing for the four community workshop meetings and preparing supporting material to present the cost-containment alignment design changes in a best effort to resolve the community's concerns.

CONTEXT SENSITIVE SOLUTIONS APPROACH

HNTB reviewed the cost containment impacts of design changes to the overall alignment, developed a study methodology and formats/agendas for the workshops, and prepared graphic presentation material for use in the workshops. Workshop 1 included a presentation of the entire alignment and all stations and

station-access and cost-containment issues for all communities. During the workshops, HNTB recorded the community concerns. HNTB then reviewed the community issues with EMC and worked with EMC and MTA to develop design solutions. HNTB prepared sketches and other graphic illustrations of proposed solutions to present in following workshops. After the last workshop, HNTB prepared a final report.

OUTCOME

The work on Marmion Way prepared both MTA and EMC for the corridor design and construction mitigation measures necessary to successfully route the project through the historic Highland Park neighborhood. Ongoing work involves implementation of further urban design measures for the corridor, including right-of-way design, streetscape design, station area urban design, and private property interface.

CHALLENGES

Community concerns about the impacts of the new line on private properties were resolved by changing the system design from semi-exclusive (fenced right-of-way) to full street running. Urban design measures such as separation of pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular ways along the narrow corridor are also being explored to promote user safety.

KEY WORDS

Applicable Project Delivery Stages: Administration, Planning, Design

Applicable Transportation Professionals: Railroad Engineers, Structural Engineers, Landscape Architects, Urban Designers, Urban Planners

Applicable Transportation Modes: Highway, Railroad, Transit, Bicycle, Pedestrian

Transportation Topics: Visual Quality, Environmental Justice, Safety, Mobility

WEB LINKS

http://www.mtwashington.org/projects/blue-line/blue-line-fact-sheet.htm
http://www.westworld.com/~elson/larail/blue.html

CONTACTS

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